IT'S REAL! IT'S HAPPENING TODAY!
VANDAL SAVAGE RULES EARTH--WITH SUPERMAN'S AID!
50¢
ALL NEW!
NO. 515
JAN.
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
SUPERMAN
STARRING IN
ACTION COMICS
SMASH THE REBELS, SUPERMAN-- STARTING WITH THEIR LEADERS--
--LOIS LANE AND JIMMY OLSEN!
BUTLER & GIORDANO
ACTION-PLUS WITH THE ATOM

THE SAGA OF JOHNNY WEST
JOHNNY WEST, WEARING HIS ACME BOOTS KEEPS AN EYE OUT FOR KIDS IN TROUBLE.
ONE DAY AFTER SCHOOL ...
LOOKS LIKE A JOB FOR JOHNNY WEST...
SCRAM KID, I'M BORROWIN' YOUR HORSE!
GEE, JOHNNY WEST! I WISH I COULD STAND UP TO TROUBLE LIKE YOU DO.
YOU CAN, BY STANDIN' PROUD IN ACME BOOTS!
YOU BET. ACME'S MAKING THE GREAT WESTERN BOOTS.
WOW! ACME BOOTS.
THE NEXT DAY, IT'S A DIFFERENT STORY...
WOW... HOW DID YOU SCARE THAT BIG CREEP OFF?
THANKS, JOHNNY WEST...
ACME WINS AGAIN.
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Acme's making the great Western boots.

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AS USUAL, HE AWAKENS WITH THE COMING OF DAWN...
A BRIEF YAWN STRETCHES HIS MOUTH...
SUPERMAN
Created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER
ALSO, AS USUAL, HE BEGINS HIS MORNING ROUTINE...
...WHICH ENDS AS HE PREPARES FOR HIS DAILY PATROL...
ALL YOU HAVE SEEN SO FAR IS USUAL...
THE UNUSUAL BEGINS NOW, AS THE RED-AND-BLUE FORM OF SUPERMAN SPEEDILY SOARS THROUGH THE STREETS OF A METROPOLIS, NOT QUITE THE WAY YOU, DEAR READER, MIGHT REMEMBER IT TO BE!...
UP THERE IN THE SKY--IT'S CLARK KENT!
THANK SAVAGE YOU'RE HERE, SUPERMAN! THERE'S BEEN A REBEL ATTACK!
YOU'D THINK THOSE FOOLS WOULD HAVE LEARNED BY NOW!
S-3489
CONFUSED? YOU SHOULD BE, FOR THIS IS OUR EARTH, THAT IS OUR SUPERMAN, AND THIS IS NOT AN IMAGINARY STORY OF ANY KIND! INDEED...
"THIS IS MY WORLD, AND YOU'RE WELCOME TO IT!"
writer: MARV WOLFMAN
penciller: CURT SWAN
inker: FRANK CHIARAMONTE
letterer: BEN ODA
colorist: GENE D'ANGELO
editor: JULIUS SCHWARTZ

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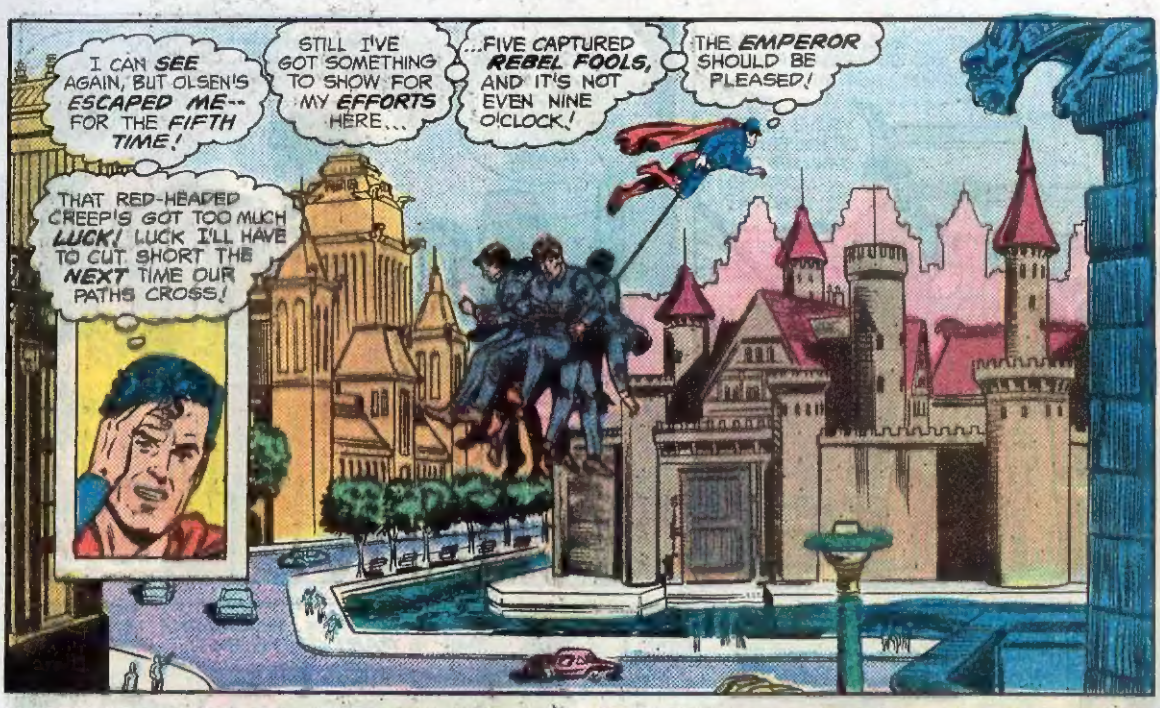
THE UNDERGROUND'S BEEN STEPPING UP THEIR ATTACKS THESE PAST WEEKS.
SOMETHING TELLS ME THEY'RE PLANNING A MAJOR STRIKE!
IT'S SUPERMAN! SCATTER!!
WELL, WHATEVER THEY'RE PLANNING, THEY'LL HAVE TO MAKE DO WITH ONE LESS TANK--
SKRASHHHH!
WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING, OLSEN?
I'VE BEEN HUNTING YOU DOWN FOR MONTHS NOW--YOU CERTAINLY DON'T THINK I'M LETTING YOU GET AWAY NOW!
MAYBE NOT, SUPERMAN--
--AND FIVE FEWER BOLTS!
WHOOOMPH!
BLAST THAT MAN! HE SHOWS UP WHEREVER WE STRIKE!
--THEN AGAIN, YOU NEVER KNOW!
FOOSH!
AGGHHH! MY EYES! BLAST YOU--YOU'VE BLINDED ME!
2


I CAN SEE AGAIN, BUT OLSEN'S ESCAPED ME-- FOR THE FIFTH TIME!
STILL I'VE GOT SOMETHING TO SHOW FOR MY EFFORTS HERE...
...FIVE CAPTURED REBEL FOOLS, AND IT'S NOT EVEN NINE O'CLOCK!
THE EMPEROR SHOULD BE PLEASED!
THAT RED-HEADED CREEP'S GOT TOO MUCH LUCK! LUCK I'LL HAVE TO CUT SHORT THE NEXT TIME OUR PATHS CROSS!

THE MAN OF STEEL GRINS AS HE SOARS THROUGH THE EMPEROR'S INNER CASTLE. HIS MAJESTY WILL KNOW HOW TO MAKE THESE REBELS TALK...
YAGGHHH!
YOU CONTEMPTIBLE CRETINS-- WHERE IS YOUR REBEL STRONGHOLD? TELL ME NOW, OR YOU SHALL CERTAINLY DIE!
ZZZZZZ
YOU... CAN KILL US ...BUT--UHH-- WE WON'T REVEAL ANYTHING!

SIR, I COULDN'T MAKE THEM TALK.
OH, THEY SHALL TALK... THEY'LL BE MORE THAN WILLING TO TELL US EVERYTHING THEY KNOW! OR I SWEAR THEY SHALL SUFFER--

--THE WRATH OF VANDAL SAVAGE!
3

EMPEROR SAVAGE! YOU SUMMONED ME?
JUST IN TIME, MAJOR LANE. YOU AND SUPERMAN PLEASE COME WITH ME!
YOU'VE HEARD OF SUPERMAN'S TRIUMPH THIS MORNING, MAJOR?
IT'S ALL OVER THE TELEVISED NEWS, SIR. EVERYONE KNOWS THAT SUPERMAN IS A HERO!
GOOD! AH, PROFESSOR LUTHOR, HOW'S YOUR WORK PROGRESSING?
YOU CAN SEE FOR YOURSELF, EMPEROR--
NOW!
REBELS ATTACKING! IT'S A TRAP!
LET THEM ATTACK, SUPERMAN! THIS IS PART OF THE TEST!
THEY'RE DISINTEGRATING ... BUT HOW? YOU DIDN'T MAKE A MOVE!
MY LATEST INVENTION, SUPERMAN...AN ENERGY-FIELD ATTUNED TO MY MIND!
WHEN THESE REBELS, OR IN THIS CASE, MY ROBOT REPLICAS, ATTACKED-- I MENTALLY COMMANDED THE ENERGY-FIELD TO DESTROY THEM!
MY MICRO-CIRCUITRY IS ALMOST COMPLETED, SIR. I SHOULD HAVE ONE OF THESE DEVICES FOR YOU BEFORE TOMORROW'S CEREMONY!
FROM THAT MOMENT FORTH, YOU'LL BE IMPERVIOUS TO ALL ASSASSINATION ATTEMPTS!
4
CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING

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BRAND NEW
DRAWING POWER!
Lots of laughing in our cartoon factory with surprising new heroes from Superperson U.! Trips to work with Moms and Dads! 'Cross Country visits with friends! Exciting looks at books, and our wacky world! Happy tips on how to treat your tummy...and even your pet puppy! Plus the "Turkey Of The Week" Award!
THE BOOK REPORTERS
IT'S A WACKY WORLD
WHATTAYA DO, DAD?/MOM?
BUS STOPS
PROFESSOR RUTABAGA
PET PEEVES
SUPERPERSON U.
TURKEY OF THE WEEK

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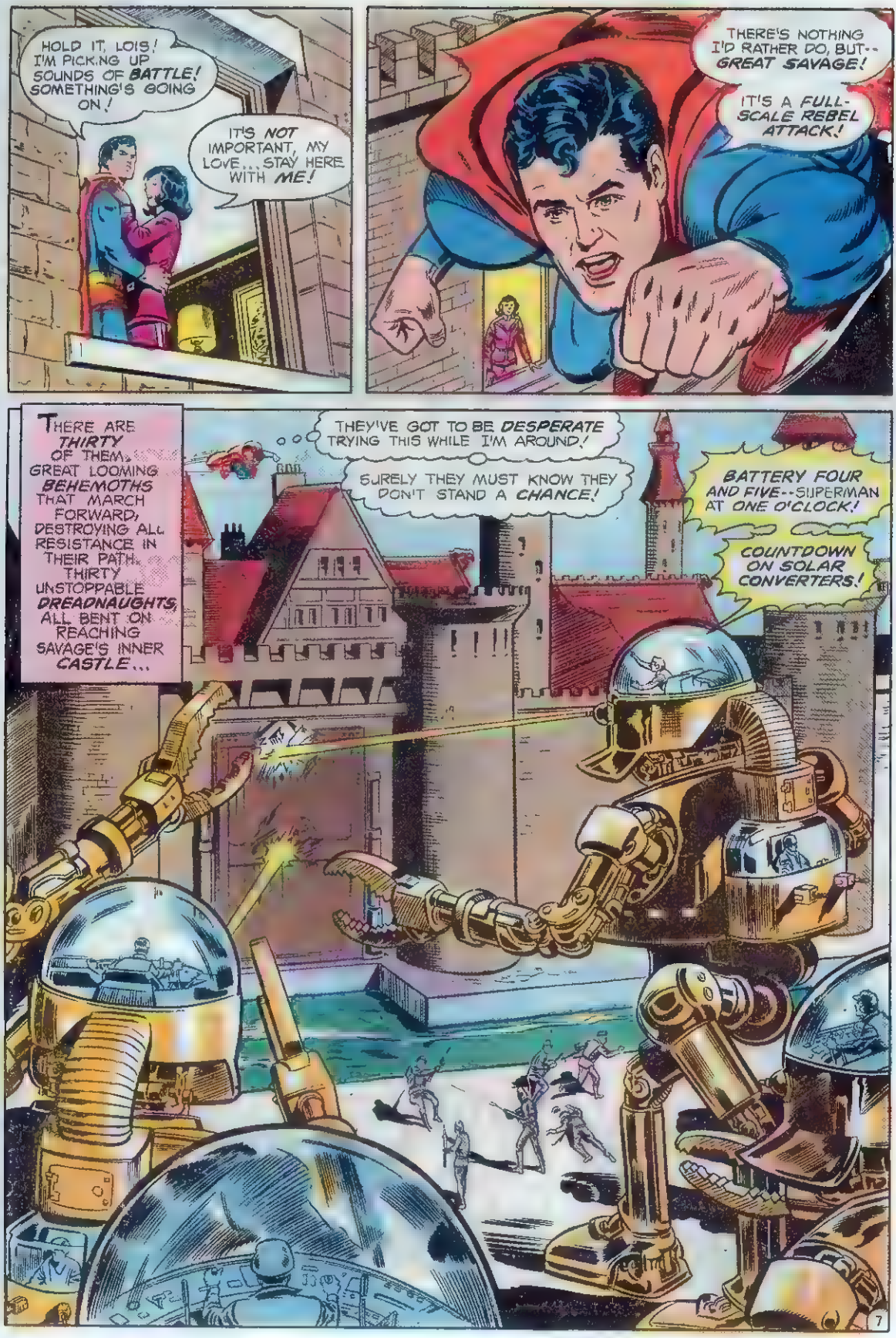
SATISFACTION GUARANTEED

PROFESSOR LUTHOR MENTIONED SOME CEREMONY?
YES, MAJOR LANE-- TOMORROW AT NOON I SHALL DECLARE ALL THE "UNDERGROUND" TO BE TRAITORS TO THE REALM!
ANYONE SUSPECTED OF TREASON WILL BE INSTANTLY ELIMINATED --WITHOUT NEED OF TRIAL!
THEN THE PEOPLE WILL BE ONLY TOO GLAD TO INFORM ON THEIR REBEL NEIGHBORS--IF ONLY TO SAVE THEIR OWN WORTHLESS HIDES!
SIR, I SEEN AN EMERGENCY IN SECTOR SEVEN. I'LL RETURN WHEN I CAN.
MAJOR, STAY HERE A MOMENT.
WHATEVER YOUR COMMAND, MY EMPEROR!
MAJOR, YOU'RE HEAD OF CASTLE SECURITY, YET TWICE THIS MONTH REBELS HAVE MANAGED TO INFILTRATE!
SIR, IT IS MY BELIEF THAT WE HAVE A SPY IN OUR MIDST!
MY MEN ARE SEARCHING HIM OUT, AND WHEN WE FIND HIM, HE WILL BE PUT TO DEATH!
NO, MY DEAR... BRING HIM TO ME!
WE WILL USE THIS SPY FOR OUR CAUSE! DISMISSED!
ALL GOES WELL! SUPERMAN WILL CRUSH THE LAST OF THE REBEL FORCES...
...THEN THERE WILL BE NO ONE WHO WILL DARE DEFY THE IMPERIAL WILL OF VANDAL SAVAGE THE FIRST!

SUPERMAN'S MISSION TAKES HIM TO THE FAR BORDERS OF METROPOLIS, BUT THE REBEL BASE HE SEEKS IS LESS THAN A MILE FROM SAVAGE'S SANCTUM-SANCTORUM...
WE HAVE LESS THAN 24 HOURS, DR. KLYBURN. WILL YOU BE READY?
JUST BARELY, JIM. OUR ATTACK-DROIDS NEED TESTING, THEIR STABILIZERS... WELL, I'M WORRIED ABOUT THEM.
YET, IN 24 HOURS EVEN OUR CLOSEST ALLIES WILL BE FORCED TO TURN ON US!
WE'VE GOT TO RISK IT, DOCTOR! WE HAVE NO CHOICE!
MEANWHILE...
SUPERMAN--?
LOIS, I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND THOSE REBELS. VANDAL SAVAGE HAS ALWAYS BEEN OUR EMPEROR...
...HE'S BEEN GOOD TO THE PEOPLE FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS!
HIS IMMORTALITY MAKES HIM OUR SUPERIOR, YET HE WORKS IN OUR BEHALF--SO WHY DO THE UNDERGROUND FIGHT US?
PERHAPS THEY DON'T WANT AN EMPEROR, NOT EVEN ONE AS GOOD AS SAVAGE!
PERHAPS THEY WANT TO MAKE THEIR OWN CHOICES IN LIFE AND NOT LET THEM BE DICTATED BY SOMEONE ELSE!
BUT WHY TALK ABOUT THE REBELS WHEN WE HAVE SO LITTLE TIME TOGETHER?
I LOVE YOU, SUPERMAN! I ALWAYS HAVE AND I ALWAYS WILL!
AND I LOVE YOU, LOIS... WITH ALL MY HEART AND SOUL!
6


HOLD IT, LOIS! I'M PICKING UP SOUNDS OF BATTLE! SOMETHING'S GOING ON!
IT'S NOT IMPORTANT, MY LOVE... STAY HERE WITH ME!
THERE'S NOTHING I'D RATHER DO, BUT-- GREAT SAVAGE!
IT'S A FULL-SCALE REBEL ATTACK!
THERE ARE THIRTY OF THEM, GREAT LOOMING BEHEMOTHS THAT MARCH FORWARD, DESTROYING ALL RESISTANCE IN THEIR PATH. THIRTY UNSTOPPABLE DREADNAUGHTS, ALL BENT ON REACHING SAVAGE'S INNER CASTLE...
THEY'VE GOT TO BE DESPERATE TRYING THIS WHILE I'M AROUND!
SURELY THEY MUST KNOW THEY DON'T STAND A CHANCE!
BATTERY FOUR AND FIVE--SUPERMAN AT ONE O'CLOCK!
COUNTDOWN ON SOLAR CONVERTERS!

CONVERSION FROM YELLOW SOLAR RAYS TO RED-- NOW!
AGGHHH! RED-SUN RADIATION-- WEAKENING ME!
FIRE!
KLAMP
HOW YOU FOUND OUT ABOUT MY WEAKNESS I DON'T KNOW-- BUT IT WON'T MATTER, OLSEN--
RED SUN RADIATION DOESN'T ELIMINATE ALL MY POWER!
AND ALL I NEED IS HALF MY SUPER-STRENGTH TO DESTROY A FOOL LIKE YOU!
WE KNEW EARTH'S LOWER GRAVITY GAVE YOU YOUR STRENGTH, SUPERMAN--
--BUT WHAT GOOD ARE MUSCLES WHEN WE'VE WEAKENED YOUR INVULNERABILITY!
KRASSHH
KRONG
ARROH!
WE WOULD HAVE PREFERRED YOU ON OUR SIDE-- FIGHTING FOR TRUTH AND JUSTICE--
--BUT AS LONG AS YOU BATTLE FOR SAVAGE, WE CAN'T LET YOU STOP US!
8

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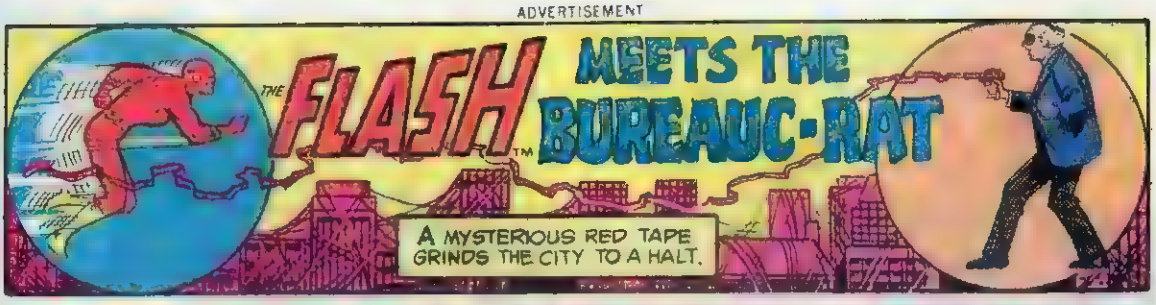
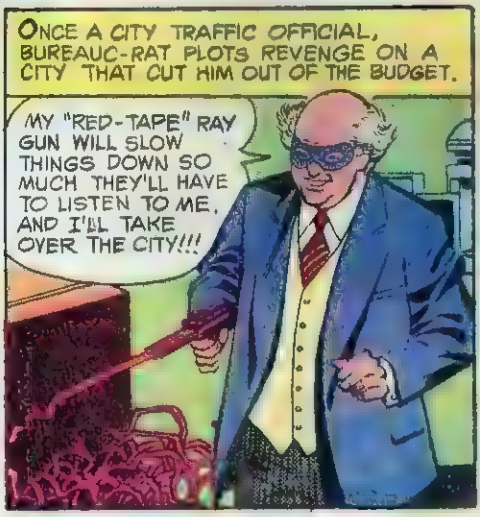
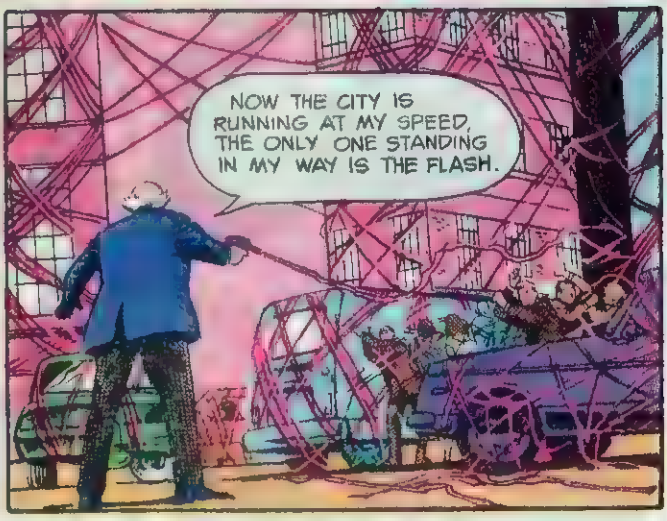
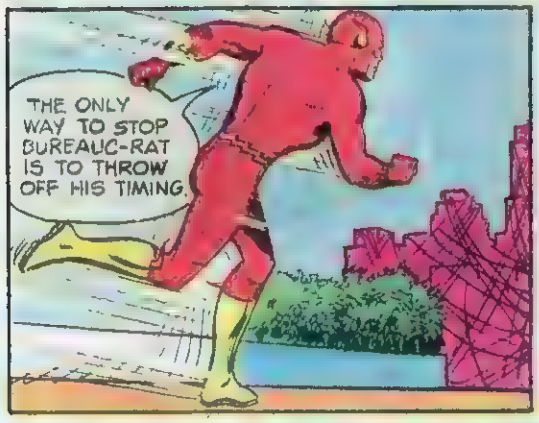
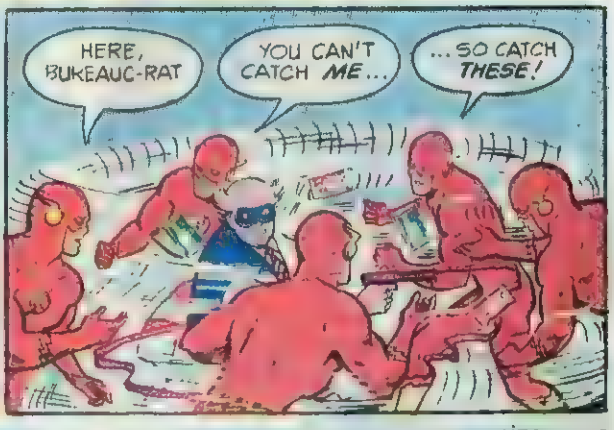
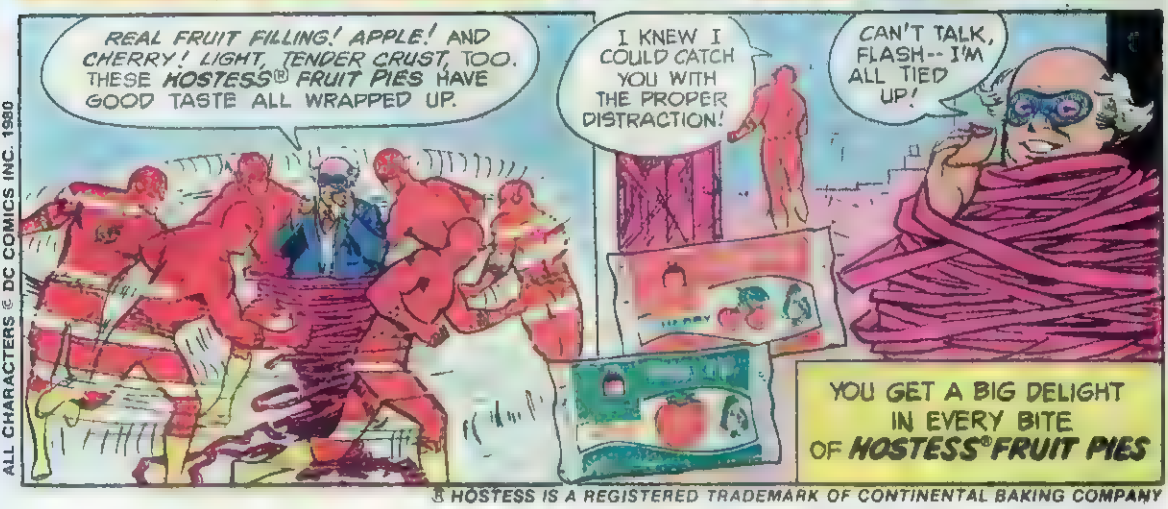



ONCE A CITY TRAFFIC OFFICIAL, BUREAUC-RAT PLOTS REVENGE ON A CITY THAT CUT HIM OUT OF THE BUDGET.
MY "RED-TAPE" RAY GUN WILL SLOW THINGS DOWN SO MUCH THEY'LL HAVE TO LISTEN TO ME. AND I'LL TAKE OVER THE CITY!!!





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I KNEW I COULD CATCH YOU WITH THE PROPER DISTRACTION!
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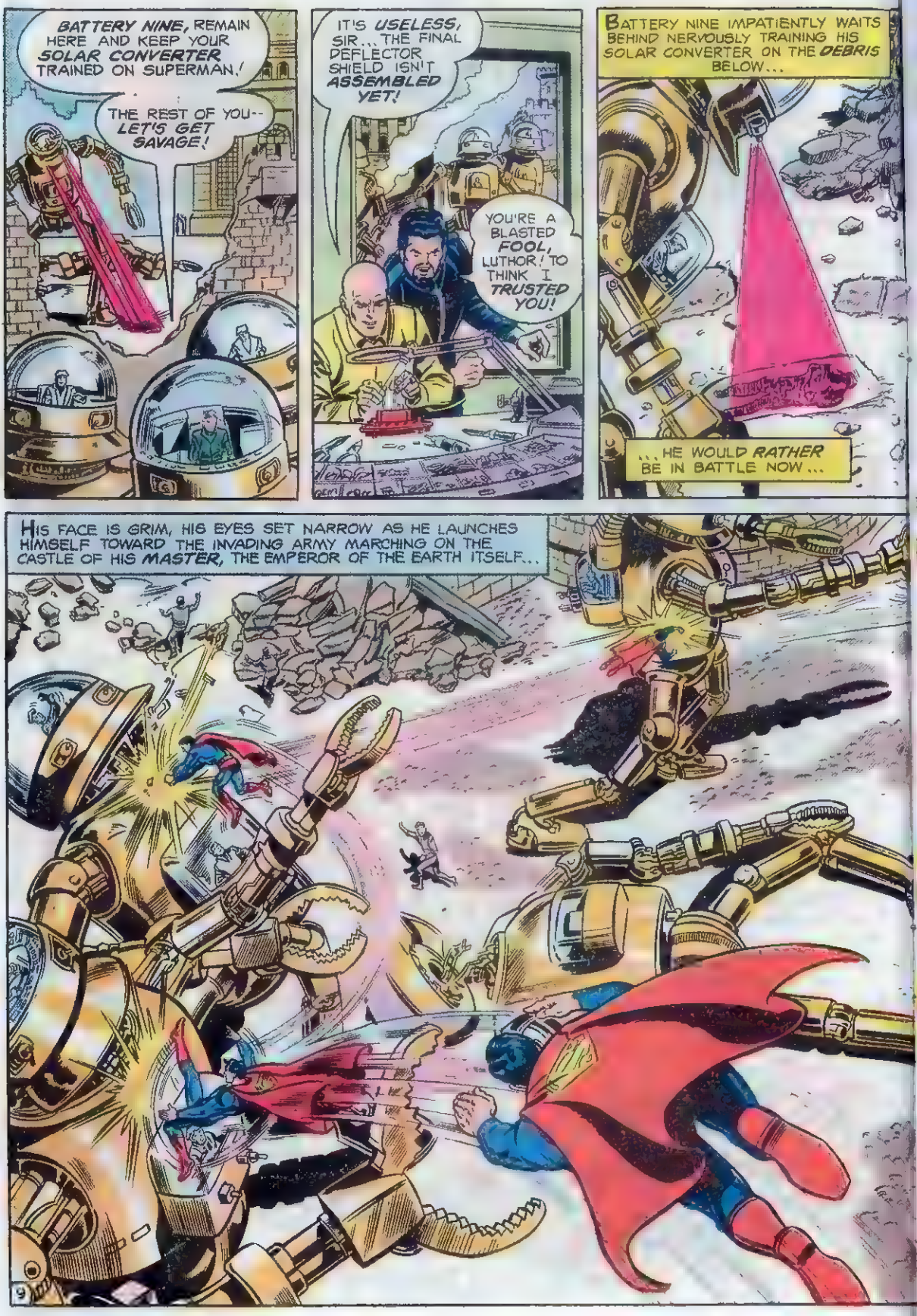
BATTERY NINE, REMAIN HERE AND KEEP YOUR SOLAR CONVERTER TRAINED ON SUPERMAN!
THE REST OF YOU-- LET'S GET SAVAGE!
IT'S USELESS, SIR... THE FINAL DEFLECTOR SHIELD ISN'T ASSEMBLED YET!
YOU'RE A BLASTED FOOL, LUTHOR! TO THINK I TRUSTED YOU!
BATTERY NINE IMPATIENTLY WAITS BEHIND NERVOUSLY TRAINING HIS SOLAR CONVERTER ON THE DEBRIS BELOW...
...HE WOULD RATHER BE IN BATTLE NOW...
HIS FACE IS GRIM, HIS EYES SET NARROW AS HE LAUNCHES HIMSELF TOWARD THE INVADING ARMY MARCHING ON THE CASTLE OF HIS MASTER, THE EMPEROR OF THE EARTH ITSELF...

HE WOULD RATHER BE HELPING HIS FELLOW FREEDOM-FIGHTERS THAN STANDING HERE...
BATTERY NINE HAS MADE A MISTAKE THINKING ONLY THOSE WHO FIGHT ARE IMPORTANT TO THE WAR...
IT IS A MISTAKE BATTERY NINE WILL LONG REMEMBER...
YOU SHOULD HAVE PAID MORE ATTENTION, REBEL!
YOUR SOLAR BEAM WAS OFF ITS TARGET BY YARDS!
SUPERMAN HAS SPENT A LIFETIME SERVING VANDAL SAVAGE, AND TILL NOW HE HASN'T WASTED A MOMENT WONDERING IF THAT SERVICE WAS RIGHT OR WRONG...

IT TAKES FIVE SECONDS FOR THE MIGHTY INVASION FORCE TO BE CRUSHED, AND ANOTHER THREE FOR SUPERMAN TO TAKE PRISONERS...
I ASSURE YOU, MR. OLSEN, THESE NEUTRON SUBMISSION RAYS CAN BE RATHER PAINFUL!
DO YOURSELF A FAVOR...COOPERATE WITH ME!
NEVER!
KILLING ME WON'T STOP THE UNDERGROUND FROM OVER-THROWING VANDAL SAVAGE!
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOUR READERS WILL MAKE OF THIS, MR. WHITE?
OH, THEY'LL SEE OLSEN FOR THE PITIFUL FOOL HE IS!
"THE SAVAGE PLANET" CARRIES INFLUENCE, SUPERMAN, THE PEOPLE WILL REALIZE THAT SUPPORTING THE UNDERGROUND IS SHEER FOLLY!
I CERTAINLY HOPE SO, MR. WHITE.
WE DON'T NEED LUTHOR'S MACHINES TO GET THE TRUTH! LET ME HANDLE THIS REBEL!
YOU WILL GET YOUR CHANCE, MAJOR LANE... BUT LATER!
AH, PERRY, WHITE! THIS SHOULD MAKE FOR AN EXCELLENT STORY, EH?
DEFINITELY, SIR!
GOOD! WE MUST SHOW THE PEOPLE THAT REBELLION IS REWARDED WITH DEATH!
SUPERMAN, COME WITH ME NOW. WE MUST PLAN OUR ATTACK AGAINST THE REBEL STRONGHOLD!
WHATEVER YOUR COMMAND, SIR!

THOUGH HIS WOUNDS ARE DEEP AND PAINFUL, JIMMY OLSEN STRUGGLES TO REMAIN CONSCIOUS...
HE HAS NOT GIVEN IN TO SAVAGE'S TORTURE, BUT HE IS UNCERTAIN HOW MUCH LONGER HE CAN RESIST...
THEN...
JIMMY, COME WITH ME! HURRY!
WE ONLY HAVE SECONDS BEFORE THE GUARD-PATROL RETURNS!
BY THE TIME THEY REALIZE YOU'RE GONE, WE'LL BOTH BE SAFE!
I'M JUST SORRY I HAD TO BE ROUGH ON YOU!
THE TWO FIGURES RUSH DOWN DARK, LITTERED SIDE-STREETS UNTIL THEY FINALLY ARRIVE AT THE REBELS' UNDERGROUND BASE...
I KNEW WHAT THE RISK WAS... AND YOU HAD TO DO YOUR JOB!
BESIDES, WE NEED YOU AS OUR UNDERCOVER AGENT IN SAVAGE'S CASTLE!
I KNOW IT, JIM, BUT FRANKLY, I STILL DON'T LIKE IT!
I'VE WATCHED TOO MANY OF OUR PEOPLE CAPTURED, TORTURED, AND KILLED!
I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH LONGER I CAN SIT BACK AND WATCH! I WANT TO DO SOMETHING ... NOW!
IT WON'T BE MUCH LONGER, LOIS! NOT IF WE CAN LURE SUPERMAN TO OUR SIDE!
LORD, I'VE TRIED, JIM! HE LOVES ME, BUT I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S ENOUGH TO MAKE HIM TURN AGAINST SAVAGE!
12

THE PROBLEM IS, I DON'T KNOW IF SUPERMAN REALLY BUYS ALL THAT BULL SAVAGE HANDS HIM--
KREEAAKK!
--OR IF HE JUST DOESN'T KNOW WHERE ELSE TO TURN--?
LOIS...SOMETHING'S WRONG! SOMETHING'S HAPPENING TO THE WALLS!
SAVAGE SAID HE WAS SUSPICIOUS OF YOU, LOIS, AND TO THINK I DIDN'T BELIEVE HIM!
YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A LYING REBEL-- PRETENDING TO LOVE ME, TRYING TO TURN ME AGAINST MY MASTER!
NO, SUPERMAN-- NO!!
KRAASSHH!
IT'S NOT TRUE! I DO CARE FOR YOU... I LOVE YOU... I NEVER LIED ABOUT THAT!
IT'S SAVAGE WHO LIED...SAVAGE WHO'S RUINED THIS WORLD!
PLEASE, SUPERMAN-- YOU'VE GOT TO BELIEVE ME!
I CAN'T, LOIS... I KNOW SAVAGE! HE IS OUR SUPERIOR ... AND OUR EMPEROR!
HE WAS BORN 50,000 YEARS AGO, A CAVEMAN NAMED VANDAR ADG, THE GREATEST WARRIOR OF HIS TIME, A MAN WHO FEARED NOTHING--
--NOT EVEN THE SCREAM OF THAT ERRANT FIREBALL...
...WHICH EXPLODED... BATHED HIM WITH AN UNEARTHLY RADIATION, AND FINALLY CHANGED HIM!
THAT FIREBALL TURNED HIM INTO A MAN WHO WOULD LIVE FOREVER! VANDAR ADG BECAME VANDAL SAVAGE-- IMMORTAL!!
13
CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

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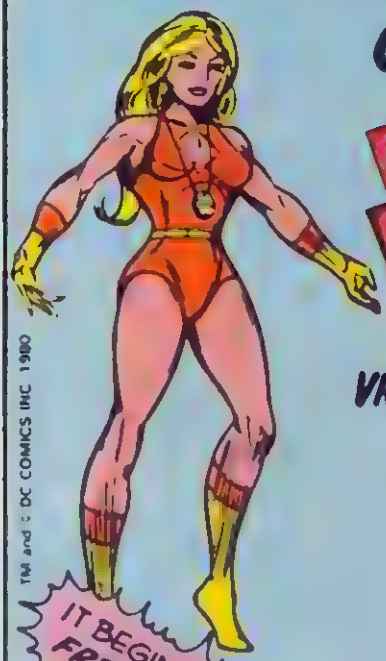

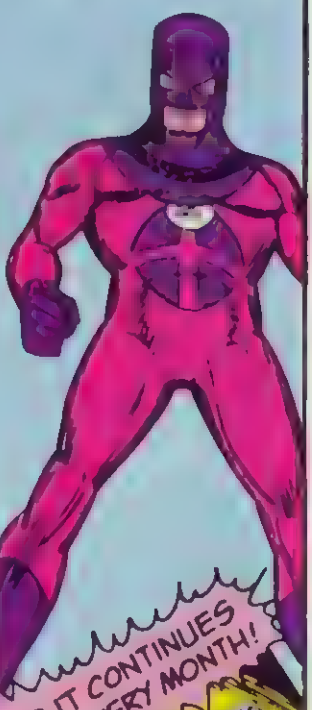

VICKI GRANT & CHRIS KING WERE JUST TWO NORMAL TEENAGERS UNTIL THEY DISCOVERED THE STRANGE, MYSTIC DIALS IN THE ATTIC... NOW, BY DIALING H-E-R-O THEY ARE TRANSFORMED INTO POWERFUL SUPER-HEROES!

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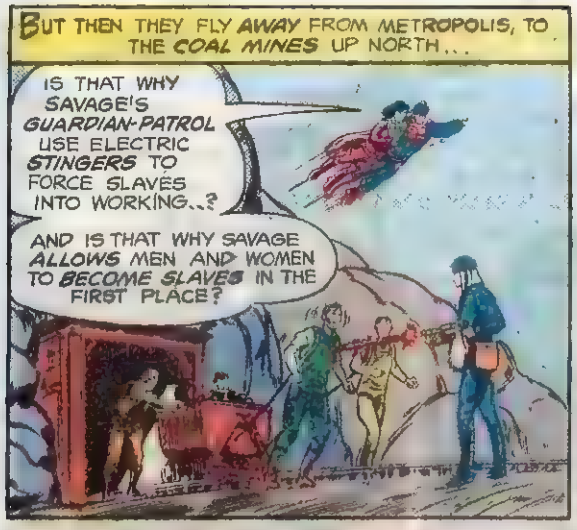
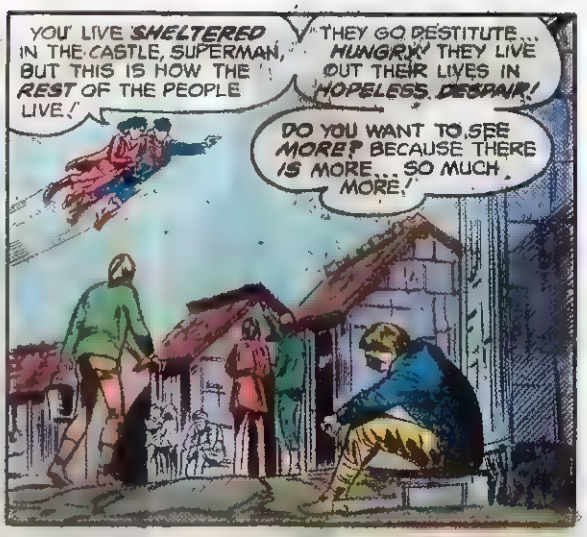
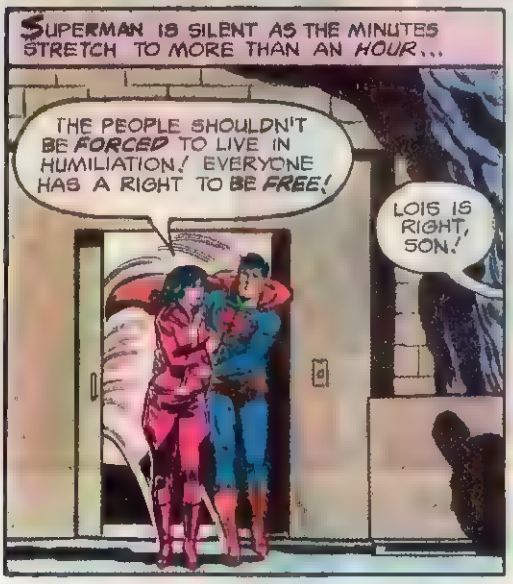
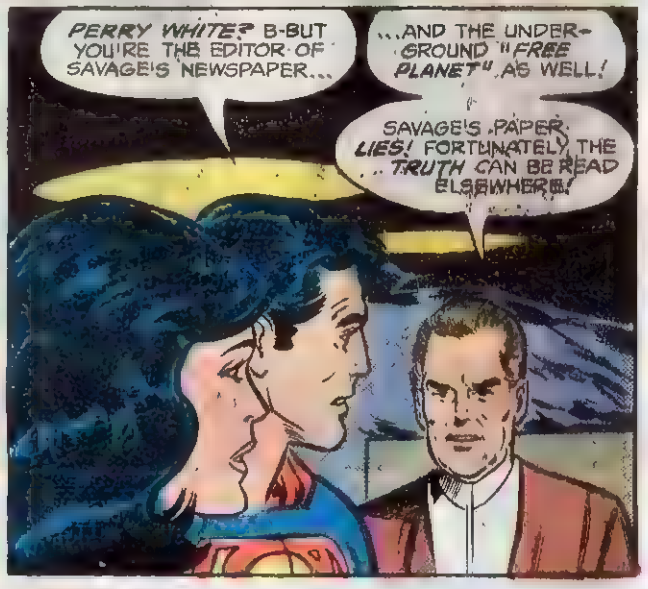
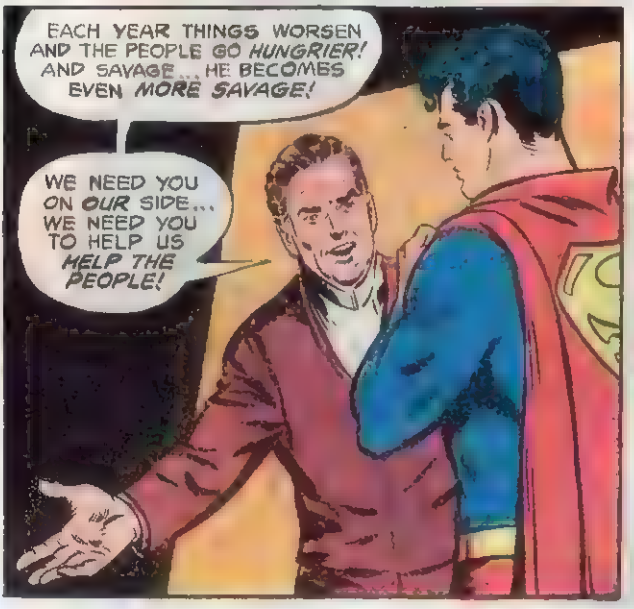
AN IMMORTAL, HE WALKED THROUGH ANCIENT SUMER AS ITS KING--
--HE BECAME THE FABLED CHEOPS, MASTER BUILDER OF THE PYRAMIDS--
--THEN HE WAS GENGHIS KAHN, RAVAGER OF THE ANCIENT WORLD.
"HIS POWER GREW WITH THE CENTURIES UNTIL HE LED HIS ARMIES ON A MISSION TO UNIFY OUR WORLD UNDER THE REIGN OF ONE MAN!"
HE WAS ALREADY RULER OF THE WORLD WHEN MY FATHER, JOR-EL, SENT ME EARTHWARD FROM THE EXPLODING PLANET KRYPTON...
I LANDED IN SMALLVILLE, WHERE I WAS FOUND BY THE KENTS. WHEN THEY REALIZED MY POWERS, THEY TURNED ME OVER TO THE EMPEROR.
HE ALLOWED THEM TO RAISE ME IN HIS CASTLE. TO TEACH ME, TRAIN ME...
I WAS TAUGHT TO OBEY THE LAW OF THE LAND! I WAS TAUGHT TO BELIEVE SAVAGE! HOW CAN I BELIEVE YOU?
TALKING IS USELESS NOW! I HAVE MY JOB TO DO...
AND YOU CAN DO IT... BUT, PLEASE--GIVE US A CHANCE!
HE IS UNCERTAIN, CONFUSED, YET HE LOVES THIS WOMAN, AND HE FINDS HE MUST GIVE HER THE CHANCE SHE BEGS FOR...
SAVAGE'S CASTLE AND THE LAND SURROUNDING IT IS LUSH... IT'S BEAUTIFUL...
THE EMPEROR HAS SAID HE WANTS TO BRING PEACE AND BEAUTY EVERYWHERE.

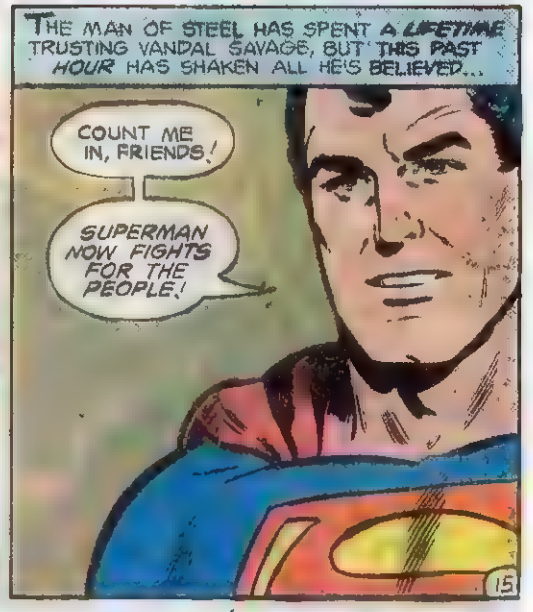

BUT THEN THEY FLY AWAY FROM METROPOLIS, TO THE COAL MINES UP NORTH...
IS THAT WHY SAVAGE'S GUARDIAN-PATROL USE ELECTRIC STINGERS TO FORCE SLAVES INTO WORKING..?
AND IS THAT WHY SAVAGE ALLOWS MEN AND WOMEN TO BECOME SLAVES IN THE FIRST PLACE?


YOU LIVE SHELTERED IN THE CASTLE, SUPERMAN, BUT THIS IS HOW THE REST OF THE PEOPLE LIVE!
THEY GO DESTITUTE... HUNGRY! THEY LIVE OUT THEIR LIVES IN HOPELESS DESPAIR!
DO YOU WANT TO SEE MORE? BECAUSE THERE IS MORE... SO MUCH MORE!


SUPERMAN IS SILENT AS THE MINUTES STRETCH TO MORE THAN AN HOUR...
THE PEOPLE SHOULDN'T BE FORCED TO LIVE IN HUMILIATION! EVERYONE HAS A RIGHT TO BE FREE!
LOIS IS RIGHT, SON!


PERRY WHITE? B-BUT YOU'RE THE EDITOR OF SAVAGE'S NEWSPAPER...
...AND THE UNDER-GROUND "FREE PLANET", AS WELL!
SAVAGE'S PAPER LIES! FORTUNATELY, THE TRUTH CAN BE READ ELSEWHERE!

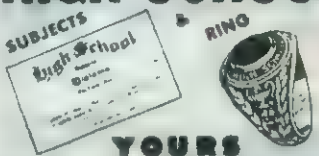

EACH YEAR THINGS WORSEN AND THE PEOPLE GO HUNGRIER! AND SAVAGE... HE BECOMES EVEN MORE SAVAGE!
WE NEED YOU ON OUR SIDE... WE NEED YOU TO HELP US HELP THE PEOPLE!


THE MAN OF STEEL HAS SPENT A LIFETIME TRUSTING VANDAL SAVAGE, BUT THIS PAST HOUR HAS SHAKEN ALL HE'S BELIEVED...
COUNT ME IN, FRIENDS!
SUPERMAN NOW FIGHTS FOR THE PEOPLE!

FOR AN HOUR MORE THEY TALK. THEN...
EMPEROR, WE... I WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK WITH YOU!
OF COURSE, SUPERMAN-- ENTER! I ALWAYS HAVE TIME TO SPEAK...
...WITH A TRAITOR!!
YOU ARE A FOOL, SUPERMAN! THERE IS A RADIO-TRANSMITTER HIDDEN IN YOUR BELT BUCKLE! I OVER-HEARD YOUR EVERY TRAITOROUS WORD!
BUT I STILL OFFER YOU ONE LAST CHANCE TO REDEEM YOURSELF!
REPENT! TURN OVER LANE AND THE OTHER REBELS--
--OR PROFESSOR LUTHOR'S LATEST INVENTION WILL DISINTEGRATE YOU!
SUPERMAN IS GOING TO FREE THIS WORLD FROM YOUR TYRANNY!
I WON'T LET YOU DESTROY HIM NOW!
YOU STUPID LITTLE DOLT! ALL YOU'VE SUCCEEDING IN DOING IS DYING FIRST!
SKREEEKKK!
I...LOVED YOU, SUPERMAN... I LOVED YOU...
LOIS--!
NO!!
SHE'S GONE!-- DEAD!!
16

YOU MURDERING FILTH-- YOU KILLED HER!
I'LL...I'LL...
YOU'LL DO NOTHING, OAE--
--INDEED, WHAT CAN YOU DO TO A MAN YOU CAN'T EVEN FIND!
DISAPPEARING! BLAST YOU, SAVAGE! COME BACK HERE!
HAHAHA
YOU KNOW WHERE HE'S FLED TO, LUTHOR! TALK, OR SO HELP ME YOU'RE DOOMED!
HE'S TRAVELED BACK IN TIME-- TO THE PAST! YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY FIND HIM NOW!
OH, I'LL FIND HIM, LUTHOR! DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT!
AND WHEN I FIND HIM-- I SWEAR BY ALL MY POWER...
...FOR MURDERING THE WOMAN I LOVE--
VANDAL SAVAGE SHALL PAY!
AS SUPERMAN RAGES, YOU MUST BE ASKING YOURSELF "WHAT IS GOING ON?" DON'T WORRY, SUPERFAN, YOU'LL FIND OUT NEXT ISSUE, AS SUPERMAN BATTLES VANDAL SAVAGE...
TIME AND TIME AGAIN!
ON SALE NOV. 25 IN! IT'S A DATE!

HIGH SCHOOL



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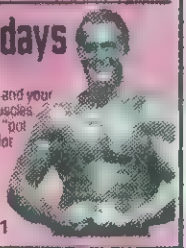

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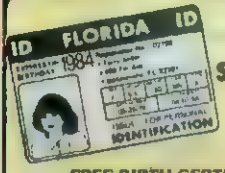

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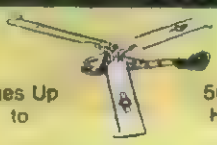

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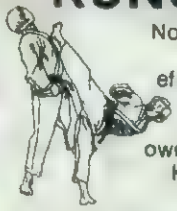

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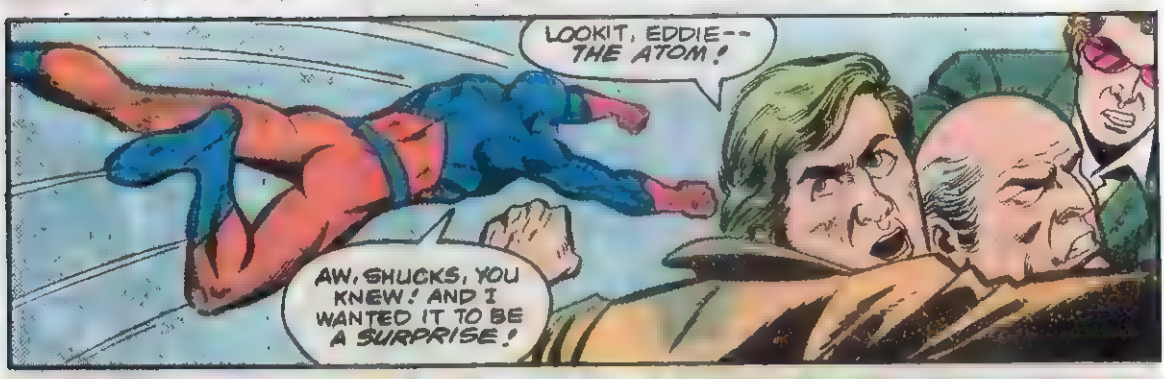
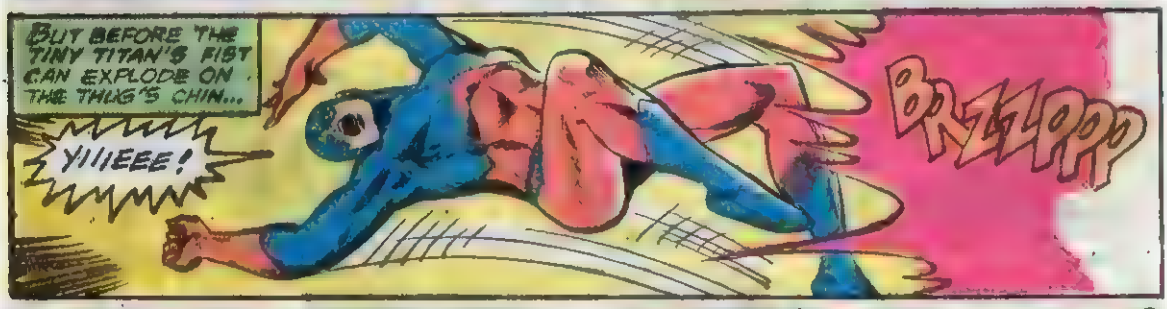
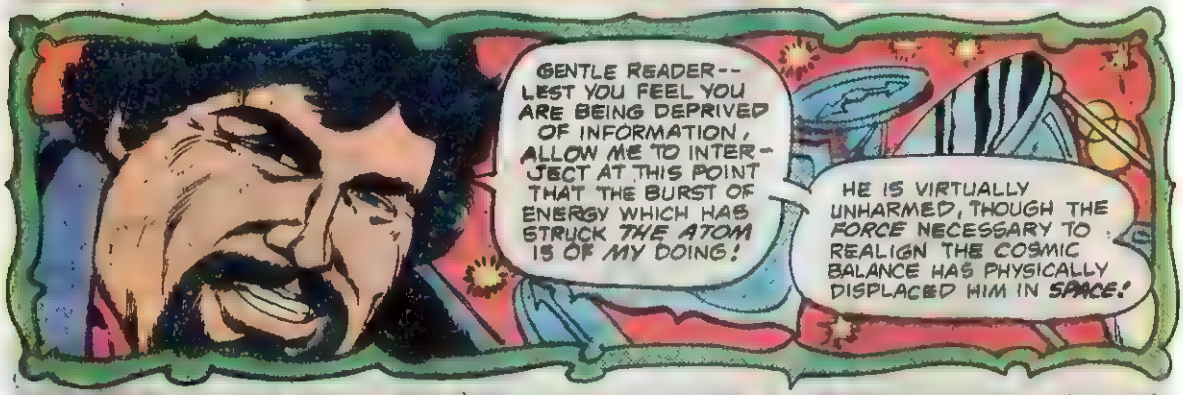
FROM A FALLEN FRAGMENT OF A WHITE DWARF STAR, NUCLEAR PHYSICIST RAY PALMER FASHIONED A LENS WHICH GAVE HIM THE ABILITY TO SHRINK TO MICROSCOPIC SIZE! AFTER LEARNING TO CONTROL HIS WEIGHT AS WELL, HE DONNED THE COSTUME OF THE TINY TITAN, BATTLING CRIME AS...
The ATOM
BOB ROZAKIS WRITER
ALEX SAVIUK PENCILLER
VINCE COLLETTA INKER
LEN WEIN COLORIST
MILT SNAPINN LETTERER
JULIUS SCHWARTZ EDITOR
"SORRY--WRONG POWERS!"
SURE IS GOING TO BE LONELY TONIGHT WITH JEAN OUT OF TOWN ON AN IMPORTANT LEGAL CASE!
MIGHT AS WELL RELIEVE THE BOREDOM BY CHANGING MY SIZE AND WEIGHT...
CLIK!
CLIK!
...AS I DO SOME ATOM-ACROBATICS AROUND THE ROOM!
CLIK!
CLIK!
THE PHONE! EVEN IF IT'S A WRONG NUMBER, AT LEAST I'LL HAVE SOMEONE TO TALK TO!
RRINNGG
HELLO--?
RAYMOND, MY BOY! I HOPE I DIDN'T TAKE YOU AWAY FROM ANYTHING IMPORTANT?
OH, NO, PROFESSOR HYATT--I WAS JUST MOPING AROUND!
I JUST GOT A CALL FROM TOM BENGELS--HE'S IN IVY TOWN ON BUSINESS! ASKED ME TO JOIN HIM FOR DINNER!
I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT LIKE TO JOIN US!
SURE THING--I HAVEN'T SEEN TOM SINCE HE LEFT IVY U FOR GOTHAM STATE!

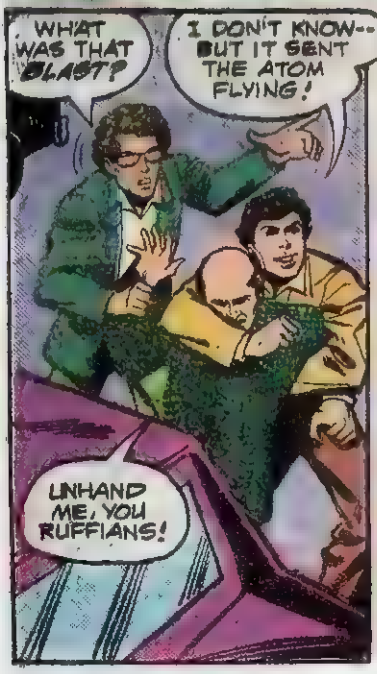
MEET US AT THE STEER PALACE AT SEVEN! SEE YOU THERE!
OKAY, PROFESSOR! AND THANKS--!
PLEASE PARDON MY INTERRUPTING THE NARRATIVE AT THIS POINT, GENTLE READER, BUT A MATTER OF GREAT CONCERN HAS ARISEN WHICH WILL AFFECT ITS OUTCOME!
BUT FIRST, I MUST INTRODUCE MYSELF! I AM MALLO, KEEPER OF THE COSMIC BALANCE!
TO PLEASE YOUR EYES, I HAVE ASSUMED THIS HUMAN FORM--
--SINCE MY TRUE APPEARANCE IS APT TO SHOCK YOU!
"AS YOU ARE NO DOUBT AWARE, THERE ARE MANY EARTHS, EXISTING SIDE-BY-SIDE IN DIFFERENT DIMENSIONAL PLANES...
"TWO OF THESE WORLDS, WHICH YOU KNOW AS EARTH-ONE AND EARTH-TWO, ARE THE HOMES OF NUMEROUS SUPER-HEROES...
"...AND THESE HEROES SHARE NOT ONLY THE SAME NAMES, BUT VIRTUALLY THE SAME POWERS..."
...WITH ONE NOTABLE EXCEPTION!

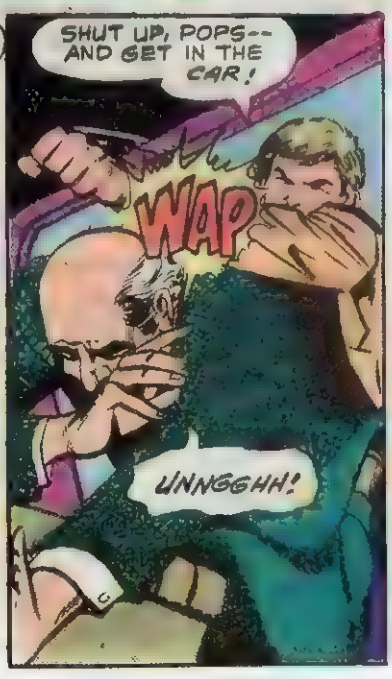
THE ATOM OF EARTH-TWO IS A FIVE-FOOT-TALL MAN NAMED AL PRATT, WHO HAS NO EXTRAORDINARY POWERS SAVE ENORMOUS STRENGTH!
HIS EARTH-ONE NAMESAKE, HOWEVER, HAS THE ABILITY TO CHANGE HIS SIZE AND WEIGHT!
THIS IMBALANCE OF SUPER-POWER IS ON THE VERGE OF UPSETTING THE EQUILIBRIUM OF THE COSMOS, CHANGING AN ORDERLY UNIVERSE INTO A CHAOTIC ONE!
BUT LEST YOU WORRY ABOUT SUCH A FATE FOR THE UNIVERSE, REST ASSURED I HAVE TAKEN ACTION TO SET THE WORLDS ARIGHT BEFORE DISASTER CAN OCCUR!
AND WITH THAT IN MIND, I RETURN YOU TO THE NARRATIVE...
SHORTLY, AS THE CLOCK IN FRONT OF THE STEER PALACE READS 7:05...
RAN INTO HEAVY TRAFFIC ON THE WAY HERE!
THE STEER PALACE
SCREEL
I MAY BE LATE FOR MY APPOINTMENT, BUT I'M RIGHT ON TIME FOR SOMETHING ELSE--
-- TO STOP WHAT LOOKS LIKE A KIDNAPPING OF PROFESSOR HYATT!
IF THOSE TWO GUYS WANT TO PLAY ROUGH, I'LL ACCOMMODATE THEM--
CLICK!
CLICK!
--AS THE ATOM!
3

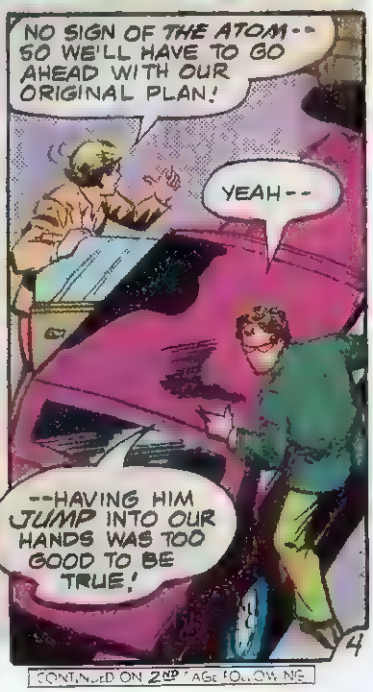





GENTLE READER-- LEST YOU FEEL YOU ARE BEING DEPRIVED OF INFORMATION, ALLOW ME TO INTER-JECT AT THIS POINT THAT THE BURST OF ENERGY WHICH HAS STRUCK THE ATOM IS OF MY DOING!
HE IS VIRTUALLY UNHARMED, THOUGH THE FORCE NECESSARY TO REALIGN THE COSMIC BALANCE HAS PHYSICALLY DISPLACED HIM IN SPACE!






NO SIGN OF THE ATOM-- SO WE'LL HAVE TO GO AHEAD WITH OUR ORIGINAL PLAN!
YEAH--
--HAVING HIM JUMP INTO OUR HANDS WAS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE!

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

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(No C.O.D. orders please)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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MONEY-BACK GUARANTEE

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MEANWHILE, SOME DISTANCE AWAY...
WHEW! DON'T KNOW WHAT KIND OF GIMMICK THOSE GOONS HAD, BUT IT SURE PACKED A WALLOP!
I FEEL LIKE A BASEBALL HIT BY REGGIE JACKSON!
TOO LATE TO STOP THOSE KIDNAPPERS NOW! I'LL HAVE TO GET BACK TO THE SCENE OF THE CRIME AND HUNT AROUND FOR CLUES--
GREAT SUNS! WHAT'S HAPPENED TO ME?!?
I'VE SHOT UP IN SIZE--TO ABOUT FIVE FEET... BUT I'M STILL IN COSTUME!*
CLIK!
NONE OF MY SIZE-AND-WEIGHT CONTROLS RESPOND!
CLIK!
WHAT DID THEY DO TO ME?
*ORDINARILY, WHEN THE ATOM ENLARGES TO FULL-SIZE, HIS COSTUME BECOMES INVISIBLE AND INTANGIBLE! -- JULIE
THOUGH THE ATOM MUST REMAIN BAFFLED, GENTLE READER, YOU NEED NOT BE! TO SET THE COSMIC BALANCE ARIGHT, I TRANSFERRED THE POWERS OF RAY PALMER TO HIS EARTH-TWO COUNTERPART AND VICE-VERSA!
HE SHALL MAINTAIN HIS STATURE FOR THE NONCE...
SHORTLY (PARDON THE PUN), AT IVY TOWN POLICE HEADQUARTERS...
--AND I'M NOT SO CONCERNED WITH THE LOSS OF MY SPECIAL POWERS AS I AM WITH THE LOSS OF PROFESSOR HYATT!
SURE SOUNDS WEIRD!
WE'LL GET ON WITH IT RIGHT AWAY, ATOM!
RING!
LT. MADONNA SPEAKING!... YES, I CERTAINLY DO WANT TO HEAR ABOUT A PRISONER-EXCHANGE FOR PROFESSOR HYATT!
WHAT?! YOU'LL ONLY NEGOTIATE WITH THE ATOM? NOW ISN'T THAT A COINC!-DENCE--HE'S HERE IN MY OFFICE RIGHT NOW!
5

STALL HIM AS LONG AS YOU CAN--WHILE WE TRACE THE CALL!
NO LUCK--SIZE-CONTROL STILL NOT WORKING!
HELLO...THIS IS THE ATOM SPEAKING!
OH, YEAH--HOW DO I KNOW THAT? YOU GONNA TALK IN A TINY VOICE?
HARDLY--BUT SHORT OF YOUR COMING DOWN HERE AND LOOKING AT ME, THERE'S NO WAY I CAN PROVE MY IDENTITY TO YOU!
SURE YOU CAN! IF YOU REALLY ARE THE ATOM, YOU'LL HOP IN-TO THE MOUTH-PIECE AND SPEED HERE THROUGH THE TELEPHONE LINE TO EXCHANGE PLACES WITH YOUR PROFESSOR PAL, HYATT!
YOU GOT TEN SECONDS TO SHOW UP HERE, OR THE PROFESSOR HAS HAD IT!
WAIT! YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE! I HAVE TO...ER...MAKE AN ADJUSTMENT...
HE'S A PHONEY! CUT HIM OFF--!
LISTEN, WHOEVER YOU ARE--
--TELL LT. MADONNA TO HAVE THE REAL ATOM THERE WHEN I CALL BACK IN AN HOUR --OR ELSE!
CLICK!
LIEUTENANT--?
IT'S OKAY! WE GOT THE TRACE--AN APARTMENT BUILDING NEARBY!
GOOD! THEY KIDNAPPED PROF. HYATT TO LURE ME THERE... AND I WON'T DISAPPOINT THEM!
NEXT TIME WE CALL HEADQUARTERS, THE REAL ATOM WILL BE STANDING BY TO DIVE INTO THE MOUTHPIECE--
--AND POP OUT OF THE RECEIVER... INTO OUR INESCAPABLE TRAP!

THE SELF-ASSURED KIDNAPPERS WOULD BE SURPRISED TO LEARN THEIR BEST-LAID PLAN IS ABOUT TO GO AWRY AS--
THE APARTMENT'S ON THE SECOND FLOOR, LIEUTENANT!
TAKE TWO OF THE OTHERS AND COVER THE HALL UP THERE!
LET ME HAVE A CRACK AT THEM BEFORE YOU TAKE ANY ACTION, LIEUTENANT!
THESE GUYS WANT THE ATOM, SO IT'S THE ATOM THEY'LL GET!
"YOU'VE GOT FIVE MINUTES, ATOM--BUT WITHOUT YOUR SIZE-CHANGING ABILITY, WHAT CAN YOU DO?"
"BORROW A PAGE FROM THE BATMAN'S BOOK! SWING DOWN FROM THE ROOFTOP ON A ROPE--
"--AND DROP IN UNEXPECTEDLY..."
CRASH!
THE ATOM! HE DOUBLE-CROSSED US--CAME IN BY THE WINDOW!
SO WHAT! AT THAT SIZE, HE MAKES A BETTER TARGET! BLOW HIM AWAY!
OOOF!
THE ACROBATIC-PRACTICING I DID EARLIER IS PAYING OFF!
THWAM
STAND STILL, YOU JUMPING JACK!
BAM! BAM!
NOW I'VE GOT YA!
YOU'RE GONNA PAY FOR ALL THE YEARS EDDIE AND ME SPENT IN THE SLAMMER!
YOU AIN'T EVER GONNA SEND ANYONE TO THE SLAMMER AGAIN!

I WOULDN'T BET ON THAT! IN FACT, YOU'LL BE ON YOUR WAY BACK BEFORE YOU CAN SAY--
KPOW
GOOD GOSH! I HIT HIM SO HARD, I KNOCKED HIM CLEAR ACROSS THE ROOM--
--AND OUT THROUGH THE WINDOW!
WHEW! HE LANDED SAFELY! I'M LUCKY THAT "ATOMIC PUNCH" DIDN'T KILL HIM!
AFTER FREEING PROF. HYATT...
--THEY KNEW ABOUT MY FRIENDSHIP WITH TOM BENGELS, SO THEY PRETENDED TO BE TOM TO GET ME OUT OF THE HOUSE AND INTO THEIR CLUTCHES!
I WAS THE BAIT TO LURE YOU TO YOUR DEATH!
AND IT WOULD'VE WORKED IF NOT FOR MY MALFUNCTIONING SIZE-CONTROL...
CLIK!
...HEY, ALL OF A SUDDEN IT'S WORKING AGAIN!
THAT'S WONDERFUL--BUT I JUST REMEMBERED! I PHONED RAY PALMER TO MEET ME FOR DINNER!
I BETTER CALL THE RESTAURANT AND TELL HIM WHAT HAPPENED!
I'LL BE BACK TO ANSWER QUESTIONS AFTER I FIND A SAFE TELEPHONE!
AND I'LL PULL A SIZE-CHANGE "DISAPPEARANCE" TO TAG A RIDE ON THE PROFESSOR'S SHOULDER--
--SO WHEN HE CALLS THE STEER PALACE, I CAN SHOOT THROUGH THE LINE TO THE OTHER END... IN TIME FOR RAY PALMER TO ANSWER HIS CALL!
AND I THOUGHT THIS EVENING WAS GOING TO BE BORING!
FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE CURIOUS TO KNOW WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THE EARTH-TWO ATOM, I REFER YOU TO THE FEBRUARY, 1981 ISSUE OF DC COMICS PRESENTS!*
*ON SALE NOVEMBER 13TH

Dear Editor:

When comic book fans get together to discuss the great writers of the past and present, Cary Bates' name is seldom, if ever, mentioned. And perhaps one can see some justification for this. After all, has Cary ever written a "classic" series or broken new ground with daring social commentary? Well, no. Does a reader sit in awe while reading one of Cary's stories, totally impressed with the power and range of his talents and technique? Well, no again.

Why is it then that when I finish a Cary Bates story, I am invariably satisfied and very often quite pleased? I've come to the conclusion that the reason for my pleasure is simple: Cary Bates knows how to write a good comic book story. He knows the rules to follow (consciously or subconsciously) and he structures each story with careful attention to both large and small matters.

Such abilities do not guarantee the writer will produce classic after classic and while Cary has written many excellent stories, he has not yet written a work to rank with the very few comic book classics. But I've concluded that the reason Cary is not a noted fan favorite is that he is unpretentious in his work. Many a lesser writer has attained prominence by more or less shouting his own talents through flashy technique. But *ACTION* has two of the premier professionals in the business today in Cary Bates and Curt Swan.

Case in point is "Luthor's Last Stand" in #510. On the large scale, the story flows smoothly and dramatically, enveloping us in the quest for the situation's solution. And having Luthor seemingly fall in love follows the tradition of portraying him as one of *Superman*'s most humanistic foes.

On the smaller details, I was struck by the names of Luthor's robots. I suspect most readers caught the significance of "Asimov", referring of course to Isaac Asimov, creator of the fictional Three Laws of Robotics. But I wonder how many caught on to "Karel", the tip of the hat to Czechoslovakian writer Karel Capek, whose 1920's play "R.U.R." introduced the word robot to the English language.

T.M. MARLE
Toronto, Ont.

Our readers are no dopes, T.M. A lot of them caught on...and a lot more of them echoed your praise of Cary's story!

* * * * *

Dear Entertainers:

What an incredible man he is. He is overflowing with personality, brilliance and creativity. His exterior can be stern and unwavering, yet deep down inside, he is brimming with amenity. I could go on, but we all know who I'm referring to, right? Wrong! *Superman*, take a back seat to Lex Luthor, the man of the hour in *ACTION* #510.

There's been lots of talk about how much these two guys despise each other, but as long as I'm discussing personalities, I have to say I think *Superman* and Luthor have a deep-rooted respect for one another. Even if *Superman* didn't have Angela in his arms, I doubt that Luthor would have fired his ultimate weapon. Without *Superman*, Luthor's genius would have no challenge. And even though Luthor was pulling a fast one on the mobsters, his speech about hatred handicapping his effectiveness has been long-established. Well, I say bunk to this! Luthor doesn't really want *Superman* dead, because without the Man of Steel, there is no competition.

Of course, *Superman* may not feel the same way about Luthor, but his admiration for the man's genius and the idea of challenging it is still there. Case in point, *Superman*'s thought on page 13, "As usual, my arch-foe has proven to be full of surprises! But my surprise will top his..!" I rest my case.

ALAN GARY GIROUX
7609 W. Weldon
Phoenix, AZ 85033

Dear Editor:

Despite its misleading cover, "Luthor's Last Stand" was a pleasure of a story. My experience with past handlings of reformed super-villains leads me to be suspicious of Lex's turn to the good, but it would be nice if it were true. People *do* reform, you know.

Of course, a real reformation would require Luthor to dismantle his operations and turn himself in for what undoubtedly would prove to be several centuries of punishment, thus rendering him unavailable for future stories.

As much as I believe that people should take responsibility for their actions, however, I would get a kick out of seeing Lex become an undercover vigilante hero, perhaps changing his name and working identity, dropping out of sight of history to all intents and purposes. This would explain his remaining on the history books as an arch-villain. (The Legion tales of the 30th century contain no mention of a reform.)

A word or two more about the story: The handling of Lana Lang was good. Having had so much experience with *Superboy*'s prowess, it would be like her not to get rattled in a crisis knowing that the Man of Steel was around. Clark's somewhat overenthusiastic praise of his super-self was a nice touch. So were the names of the robots.

Cary Bates is getting better and better with the small touches that make a story convincing...and Curt Swan and Frank Chiaramonte walk away with the usual honors for their expressive, clean-lined artwork.

RAND LEE
722 Eastgate Avenue #1W
St. Louis, MO 63130

So went most of the mail on ACTION #510...but there were a few of you who think you've caught us in a mistake! Witness our next letter!

* * * * *

Dear Action Aces,

Finally a Luthor story with some bite to it. Luthor in love, Luthor the hero—but he's also Luthor the married man! Did Cary Bates forget about Ardora, Luthor's wife on the planet Lexor?

MICHAEL TIMBALL
1742 N. Edgemont
Los Angeles, CA 90027

No, but Lex did...as you found out in the concluding chapter of Cary's trilogy!

* * * * *

Dear Editor:

Lex Luthor a good guy? Someone give me an Alka Seltzer!

TYLOR CARMICHAEL
1800 Williamsburg Road
Apt. 23-E
Durham, NC 27707

Now that Lex is back to "normal", is your tummy better?

* * * * *

CURRENT SUPER ATTRACTIONS

ON SALE OCTOBER 9th

DC COMICS PRESENTS #29—In a desperate attempt to save the universe, The Spectre joins the Man of Steel to journey "Where No Superman Has Gone Before". Plus: Find out "Whatever Happened to Doctor Mid-Nite?"

SUPERMAN #355—What is the startling secret of "Momentus, Master of the Moon"? And can *Superman* find out before it's too late? Also: travel into the future of *Superman 2020* to witness "The Destruction of New Metropolis".

SUPERMAN FAMILY #205—*Supergirl* battles the *Enchantress* once more and there's "Magic Over Miami"; *Mr. and Mrs. Superman* try to "Catch a Falling Star" as Alexei Luthor opens his new campaign against the Man of Steel; Clark Kent must solve the "Case of the Disappearing Daye"; Jimmy Olsen makes a "Climb to Calamity"; our favorite gal reporter is "Lois Lane: Found"; and Lois and Jimmy join forces to stop an "Election Nightmare".

ON SALE OCTOBER 23rd

NEW ADVENTURES OF SUPERBOY #13—Who is the surprise guest star in a 25-page epic about "Superboy's Wild Weekend Out West"?

SUPER FRIENDS #40—What the *Super Friends* see is not necessarily what they get in "Menace of the Mixed Up Senses!" Plus: *Jack O'Lantern* has "Blarney For Sale!"

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